

PAST TENSE: The Past Continuous tense

I was doing.

This tense is used to say that somebody was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this but had not finished.

Example of this in action:

- Yesterday Sanjit met Harjinder for lunch at one o'clock. They finished at two o'clock. Therefore at one thirty, they were having lunch.

I started doing

I was doing

I finished doing

Past

past continuous

past

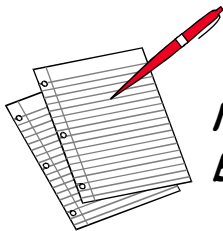
Examples

- This time last year I was working in Starbucks'.
- What was he doing at ten o'clock yesterday?
- She was run over because she wasn't looking where she was going.
- I did not hear the phone because I was cleaning the car.
- She was late for class because the buses were running late.
- He repaired his car yesterday but got drenched as it was raining continuously for 4 hours.

PTO/...

Have a look at Peter's diary then complete the exercise below
This gives an account of Peter's day

9-10	<i>Go for morning run</i>
10-11	<i>Shop for food</i>
11-1	<i>Do the accounts</i>
1-2	<i>Have lunch</i>
2-5	<i>Have meeting with Gosport and Company</i>
5-6	<i>Travel home</i>
6-8	<i>Watch television</i>
8-9	<i>Prepare supper</i>

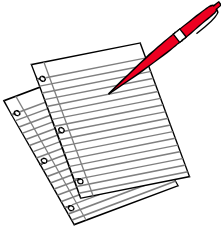


Now answer the following questions. The first one has been done for you.

1. What was Peter doing at 6.15? **Answer:** He was watching television.
2. What was Peter doing at 10.30 ? **Answer:**.....
3. What was Peter doing at 2.45? **Answer:**.....
4. What was Peter doing at 8.20? **Answer:**.....
5. What was Peter doing at 11 05? **Answer:**.....
6. What was Peter doing at 5.15? **Answer:**.....
7. What was Peter doing at 9 07? **Answer:**.....

PTO/...

It is important to learn when to use the **Past Simple** and when to use the **Past Continuous**.



*Put the verbs in the following sentences into the correct form of the past tense. Ask yourself the following question: **HAD THE ACTION BEEN COMPLETED OR WAS IT STILL GOING ON?** The first one has been done for you.*

1. John(wait) for me when I(get home)

Answer: John **was waiting** for me when **I got** home.

2. When I was a child I (want) to be a vet.

3. I.....(cook) dinner when the phone(rings).

4. He.....(run)...down the road when the accident
.....(happen)

5. I(meet)Alex at the station. He.....(go) to
Liverpool.

6. We.....(have) an argument when you(arrive)

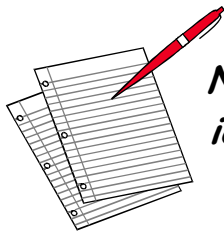
7. I(drive) to Waitrose this morning when I (run over)
..... a duck.

8. When I last(see) Hamish he(hope) to get
a job in a library.

9. The evil man(follow) me so I(run away)

10. Denise(take) his number down when he
(disappeared)

PTO/...



Now complete the following sentences using your own ideas. You must use the Past Continuous tense

- 1) The doorbell rang when I.....
- 2) Ben phoned while we
- 3) Suleman met Sasha while he.....
- 4) The radio was on but nobody.....
- 5) I decided to be a doctor while I.....
- 6) We saw the famous film star while we
- 7) While.....Tom burnt his hand.
- 8) While.....he fell asleep.
- 9) Iwhen the postman arrived with the letter.
- 10) She when the police stopped her.